

OLD HOUSE IN GLOUCESTER.



of a repulsive kind, he died; and was canonized by Pope Benedict IX., and the Roman gate on which he last appeared became converted into a Christian church, in which he was buried. To effect this, earth was piled up before either gate, to a level with the first stage of the building, over which was constructed a flight of steps leading to this story; the interior of the gate thus formed the body of the church, which was dedicated to St. Simenn, the lower part or gateway forming a crypt. An apse was built on one side, and incorporated with the Roman building; and this venerable and ornamental relic of the 12th century still remains, as will be seen in the engraving: it was found unsafe to remove it, as it aided in strengthening the more ancient building. Thus the Pagan gate became a Christian church until the first French revolution, when the gateway, having lain for nearly 800 years blocked up, was again restored to its original use, as a gate to the town, which the erection beside it, also seen in the sketch, had usurped, and which was placed there in the 17th century. The traces of chorch decoration still remain on its interior walls, and it is devoted to a collection of Roman ruins, found in the city and neighbourhood.*

METAL BOATS.—It is proposed to cast vessels in one mass, and a composition has been invented, combining the advantages of copper and iron.

* We venture to direct attention to our engraving, the drawing for which was made on the spot by Mr. Fairholt expressly for us.

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The accompanying engraving represents a curious specimen of wooden construction, in the ancient city of Gloucester, and will aid in completing the series illustrative of domestic architecture, already carried to a considerable extent in previous numbers of our journal.

STAINED GLASS AT HAMPTON COURT.

WOLSEY'S HALL is adorned with thirteen new stained-glass windows, and is now open to the public. Each of the windows is 20 feet high and of considerable width. They contain the armorial pedigrees of the six wives of the monster King Henry VIII. Curiously enough they all trace their descent from Edward I. of England. Good subjects as the arms may be for stained glass, we should have hesitated before emblazoning crimes which disgrace the pages of our history. We shall pay an early visit to the hall, and have no doubt we shall find the windows worthy of the established reputation of Mr. Willement, by whom they are executed.

A morning contemporary, after describing these windows, says:—

"We have been thus far minute in our description of the new embellishments at Hampton-court Palace, from a desire to see the highest artistic talent in the country finding honourable and lucrative employment in the pursuit of a long-neglected branch of the fine arts. When we remember the cold and cheerless aspect of most of our cathedrals and ecclesiastical edifices, from the absence of

those stained-glass windows, which at once ministered to the religious sentiment, and infused a sense of bodily warmth and comfort, we shall perceive how wide a field is open to men of science, and painters of genius, who may endeavour to perfectionate this branch of high and devotional art. The Government are making a wise and enlightened exercise of their patronage, in doing what they can to stimulate and encourage the art of staining in glass; and as the English school of painters is acknowledged to excel all other existing schools in colouring, there seems no reason why our church and cathedral stained-glass windows should not, if possible, excel the *chef-d'œuvres* of the modern Munich artists."

COMPETITION DESIGNS FOR DALSTON LITERARY INSTITUTION.

SIR,—Some few months since designs for the above-named institution were advertised for in THE BUILDER; I obtained the particulars (which I inclose you), wherein you will see that one of the instructions to architects, limits the amount to be expended to 1,500*l.* I submitted a design, keeping as near as possible to that sum, and was one of the unsuccessful competitors. A design by Mr. Catlin was chosen, and in your last publication is an advertisement to builders for estimates for the carcass only. I called at Mr. Catlin's office to make an estimate for a builder, when I was told the quantities were being made out, and that in all probability there would be about 90 rods of brickwork, and 90 loads of timber. Putting the brickwork at 1*l.* per rod, and the